

**LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)
MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 28, 2017 LNA GENERAL MEETING
Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 8835 S.E. Woodstock, Portland
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Approved: Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

Board Members in Attendance (in alphabetical order): Michael Collins (Vice-Chairperson); Krista Dennis (At-Large Board Member); Ray Hites (Treasurer); Judy Low (Chairperson); Cora Potter (Land Use Chairperson); Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary); Autumn West (At-Large Board Member); and Jennifer Young (At-Large Board Member).

Attendees (in alphabetical order): David Anderson; Barbara Bader; Erik Benson; Kimberly Berkey; Melissa Collins; Richard Christman; Christy Clevinger; RoseMary Colorafi; JoLynne Cooper-Nearing; Carma Crimins; Michael Cummings; Matilde Flores; Philip Goh; Hayley Graves; Corrine Hilton; Michael Kennedy; Christopher Luchini; Ken Luchini; Char Pennie; David Potts; Joel Rebik; Jeff Reuter; Robert Schultz; Josh Tagliere; Carolyn Rafa Tucker; Linda and Dave Webster; and Robert West.

Guests (in alphabetical order): Coral Egnew (Trimet Capital Projects); Paul Leistner (Neighborhood Program Director, Office of Neighborhood Involvement); Vicky Oglesbee (Head Librarian, Holgate Library); Victor Salinas (Executive Director, East Portland Neighborhood Office); and Wendy Serrano (Trimet Community Affairs Representative).

Chairperson Low convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Victor Salinas, New Executive Director of East Portland

Neighborhood Office (EPNO). Low introduced Victor Salinas, the new Executive Director of EPNO. Victor is replacing Richard Bixby, the former Executive Director, who retired after over two decades of service to the City of Portland. Salinas' biography can be read at the EPNO website at: www.eastportland.org/node/6007. Salinas brings experience and expertise in working with diverse communities, with Latino Network and with the City of Portland. LNA appreciates Richard Bixby's dedicated service to East Portland and welcomes collaboration with new Executive Director Victor Salinas.

Approval of Draft Minutes from the Tuesday, February 28, 2017, General Meeting. A limited number of hard copies of the draft Minutes from the Tuesday, February 28, 2017, General Meeting was available. Board Members had received electronic copies of the draft Minutes over the weekend. Rees (Luchini) motioned that the draft Minutes from the Tuesday, February 28, 2017, General Meeting be approved.

West seconded. The motion carried 22 in favor; 0 in opposition, with 5 abstentions.

Land Use Chairperson Report (Potter). Land Use Chairperson Potter remarked that there will be increased development now that spring has arrived and construction has begun. There are 5 active large-scale construction projects, including those at the Town Center; 2 medium-sized apartment complexes and a new home construction. The two apartment complexes currently under permit review included one at S.E. Ellis and S.E. 89th and one on the 8200 block of S.E. Flavel. Permits have also been applied for S.E. 96th and S.E. Knight and at the cul-de-sac where S.E. 93rd meets S.E. Tolman. Additionally, groundbreaking for the Asian Health & Services Center will occur on April 22 and the food cart pod site, with possible townhouses later, on the east side of S.E. 93rd is currently under permit review.

Potter introduced two presenters from Trimet, Coral Egnew of Trimet Capital Projects and Wendy Serrano, Trimet Community Affairs Representative.

Trimet Park & Ride Conversion (Powell Park & Ride) (Egnew). Coral Egnew of Trimet Capital Projects presented on the changes at the Powell Garage and Powell Park & Ride.

Powell Garage (9800 S.E. Powell), adjacent to the east side of I-205, is being reconfigured to improve bus and employee safety and efficiency and accommodate 50 percent more buses, including the “bend-y buses” (larger, articulated buses) that will be used in the Division Transit Project. Aging facilities will also be replaced and modernized.

In order to make room for these improvements, parking and dispatch for LIFT will be moved to the Powell Park & Ride (3618 S.E. 92nd Avenue), adjacent to the west side of I-205. LIFT is the paratransit shared-ride service for seniors and people with disabilities who are unable to use regular buses and trains. LIFT is a Trimet service. Reconfiguration of the Powell Park & Ride site will include reconfiguring the south end of the site for secure LIFT van and employees parking. A single-story dispatch building will be constructed. Landscaping and storm water planters will be established. Access via 92nd Avenue and I-205 multi-use path will be maintained. There will be no change near the MAX platform at the north end. Eighty Park & Ride spaces will be retained.

Estimated timeline for the project is: Spring, 2016 – Begin design for Powell Park & Ride site; Fall, 2016 – Begin design for Powell Garage site; Spring, 2017 – Begin construction for Powell Park & Ride site; Spring, 2018 – Move LIFT parking and dispatch to Powell Park & Ride site; begin multi-phased construction at Powell Garage site; Large 2022 – Complete construction at Powell Garage site.

LNA member Bader inquired about emissions. Egnew indicated that Trimet vehicles are replaced as they age out of service; newer vehicles are diesel and meet higher emissions standards as technology improves. In addition, Trimet has added filters to reduce the emissions from the buses. Potter qualified, however, that the LIFT vehicles are primarily gasoline. Dennis expressed a concern about increased traffic at a time when students will be using the intersection to go to school. S.E. 92nd and Powell intersection is dangerous. Egnew indicated that there will be no rush hour or peak hour traffic and that Trimet will be trying to group all the rides. She admitted that this was a major concern when applying for the permit. If issues arise once the project is completed, it is possible for Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to adjust the signal time. Communication with the community and neighborhood is being encouraged so that feedback can be exchanged. LNA member Ken Luchini inquired as what steps will be taken to keep the dust down during construction. Egnew replied that there will be dust mitigation. Contact information will be available to neighbors in the immediate vicinity if there is cause for concern.

LNA thanked Ms. Egnew for her presentation.

Division Transit Project (Serrano). Wendy Serrano, Trimet Community Affairs representative, presented on the Division Transit Project and handed out flyers on same. The Division Transit Project is 14 miles and extends between downtown Portland, Southeast and East Portland and Gresham. Its intent is to make bus service more efficient by providing: “bend-y buses” (longer, articulated, 3-door buses with room for 60 percent more riders) and multiple-door boarding. In addition, the bus stops at stations will be expanded to provide better weather protection. The buses in the Division Transit Project will have transit signal priority. Stations will be placed where there is greatest rider demand. The service will cross the Willamette River over Tilikum Corssing, Bridge of the People and then connect with South Waterfront, OHSU and PSU. The Division Transit Project will replace the No. 4-Division bus line. The project is scheduled to open in 2021.

LNA member Cummings inquired as to the distance between bus stops where bus stops are being discontinued. He felt that longer distances between bus stops would negatively impact seniors, people with disabilities and families with young children. Serrano indicated approximately 1/3-mile between stations for those stops that are being discontinued. LNA member Bader wondered how the longer buses would navigate the narrower parts of Division and what safety measures were being taken. Serrano indicated that Trimet had borrowed a “C-Span” articulated bus from Vancouver and successfully test-drove it through the narrower parts of Division. Bus drivers will be given special training on how to “navigate the streetscape.” The articulated buses will also be equipped with the appropriate mirrors and cameras to help ensure visibility.

LNA thanked Ms. Serrano for her presentation.

Police Liaison Report. Low announced that Public Safety Chairperson Randy Schroeder had resigned.

Officer Wuhlrich indicated that there were no specific updates for Lents, but would be happy to answer any questions. He continued to recommend using the One Point of Contact system to report homeless camps.

An LNA member inquired about homeless camping along Johnson Creek which is causing environmental degradation. Wuhlrich indicated that this is an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) jurisdictional issue, similar to the property under I-205. He clarified, though, that, if a crime is in progress, Portland Police can be called to assist.

An inquiry was made as to whether there has been any success in recruiting more officers. Wuhlrich indicates that recruiting is up, but that it takes approximately 18 months for an officer to complete probation and another 3 years to become truly effective at the job.

Concerns were expressed about an increase in homeless campers (tent and in rvs) as the better weather arrives, with some of these homeless being “travelers” from out-of-state and/or criminals and/or substance-abusers and not Portlanders displaced by the housing crisis. Mention was made of the recent incident on S.E. 82nd and Foster where a business owner killed a mentally-ill homeless man whom he perceived as threatening after confronting the homeless man in the parking lot of his business. The business owner was not arrested and was cleared of all charges. There was a fear that this could set a precedent, where residents who felt powerless and threatened would take matters into their own hands rather than waiting for a police response. Residents feared vigilantism.

An LNA member reported disparate treatment in various neighborhoods. In his mother's Laurelhurst neighborhood, there were two illegally-parked rvs and those were removed within two days. In the LNA member's situation, there is a caravan of trailers parked illegally and they have been there for 6 months. This LNA member expressed his frustration with the situation and that it makes people want to take matters into their own hands. Wuhlrich indicated that there should be no disparate treatment in law enforcement between the various neighborhoods and ask the LNA member for more details so he could check into it.

Young expressed a concern about the number of homeless campers and used syringes near pathways taken by children to go to and from Lent School and the Boys &

Girls Club. She recommended that part of community policing would be to have a police presence along the school route before and after school. Wuhlrich thought that was an excellent idea and would make a point of bringing this suggestion to the attention of his cohort on the morning and afternoon shifts.

One LNA member felt that the neighborhood watches were not that effective because they ultimately had to rely on the police to enforce and many times there was no enforcement. Wuhlrich felt that the value in neighborhood watches was in the show of presence – neighbors are watching out for each other. Another LNA member who is involved in a neighborhood watch felt that it was valuable to get neighbors talking to each other and involved in their community. This LNA member reminded that ONI facilitates crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs.

Treasurer's Report (Hites). Treasurer Hites reported that LNA has \$11,472.70 in its savings account and \$534.53 in its checking account, totalling \$12,007.23. Interest earnings of 44 cents were reported. Lighting of the Lents monuments was \$33.66 and \$41.52. Accounts payable included: \$30.00 for the rekeying of the Lents information kiosk; \$147.37 to register the website domain name and renew the host site; \$30.10 and \$38.68 to PGE for lighting of the Lents monuments; \$3.77 for a mailing of a certified letter, for a total accounts payable of \$249.35. The Board authorized \$1,700 matching grant (at 200 percent) for the spring cleanup. Accordingly, \$2,000 will need to be transferred from savings to checking.

Social Media; Spring Cleanup (West).

(a) **Social Media.** At-Large Board Member West thanked Potter for taking care of the registration of the website domain name and for renewing the host site. LNA does not have a credit card. Potter used her personal credit card to take care of this and was reimbursed.

Current admins of the LNA Facebook page are Chairperson Low and At-Large Board Member Autumn West. The moderator of the LNA Facebook Page is West. The webmaster and webmistresses of the LNA website are, in alphabetical order, Collins, Potter and West.

(b) **Spring Cleanup.** The Spring Cleanup is taking place on Saturday, May 20. Flyers are available and are on the table near the sign-in sheets. Please take several to share with neighbors. There will only be one site – Teen Adult Challenge Thrift Store parking lot on S.E. 82nd and S.E. Raymond Court. Hours are 9:00 a.m. till dumpsters are filled. Teen Adult Challenge volunteers will be assisting LNA volunteers. Finding a hauler was a challenge because companies have not found the neighborhood cleanups to be very profitable for them. There will be an opportunity to “leave one, take one”

through an item exchange/swap.

Lents Livability Town Hall (Young). Young, the Chairperson of the Livability Committee and its Board liaison, reported that the Town Hall is next Tuesday, April 4. It will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church where our General Meetings regularly occur. The Town Hall is resident-driven, with many of the concerns/questions that have been addressed to the Livability Committee, either verbally or in writing (gathered at Meeting or via email, PMs and Facebook), reflecting the same concerns that were revealed in the Green Lents Lents Strong! Report.

The agenda and format will be, briefly, as follows: introductions, ground rules/expectations, powerpoint and video interviews; moderated question-and-answer; public question-and-answer. Adam Brunelle of Green Lents will be presenting on Lents demographics, with statistics from the Lents Strong! Livability Study. There will be a suggestion box for additional comments/questions that might not be addressed. It is hoped that this Town Hall will be the first of a series.

Young explained that the decision to moderate the Town Hall came about because Lents needed the Mayor and the City Commissioners to show up before the better weather arrived potentially bringing an influx of homeless campers. It was an attempt to be proactive so that last spring's and summer's experiences would not be repeated in Lents. City Council was insistent about knowing the format and agenda for the Town Hall and that questions be submitted beforehand. It was challenging to get the Mayor and the City Commissioners to agree to participate in a Lents Town Hall, particularly in light of the disruptions to City Council meetings that had been ongoing of late.

Young mentioned that it was distressing to the Livability Committee to have accusations on social media leveled against its members for having held a “secret meeting” with the Mayor. The possibility of a meeting with the Mayor and his Senior Policy Advisor had been announced at the February 28 General Meeting and at the March 9 Board Meeting. When the meeting finally was confirmed, it was done with only a few days' notice. The meeting with the Mayor and his Senior Policy Advisor was 1/2-hour. It was to discuss the format and agenda of the Town Hall. The only people invited to the meeting were the members of the Livability Committee. Members of the Livability Committee are: Jennifer Young (Chairperson of the Committee and Board Liaison), Autumn West, Barbara Bader, Carma Crimins, Dan McElligott, Char Pennie, David Potts and Joanne Rees (Luchini). Carma was unable to attend due to illness.

Outreach for the Town Hall had been done to the community leaders of various nonprofits serving the diverse communities that comprise Lents, including APANO (Asian), NAYA and Wisdom of the Elders (Native American) and the Ethiopian and

Latino communities. Two families in the video interviews were Honduran and Ethiopian. A disabled, homeless person is also interviewed. Outreach was also done at General and Board Meetings, on the LNA Facebook page and LNA website and through distribution of flyers at community gathering spaces such as the Holgate Library and Mt. Scott Community Center. Additionally, Green Lents, in its Lents Strong! Study, had done outreach to the wider, diverse communities of Lents.

Thanks to Collins for generously fixing the fence of one of the interviewee families. The fence had been knocked down by homeless campers who were trespassing in the family's yard.

A motion was made by LNA Member Bader that LNA provide an additional \$50 to compensate the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church for the hall reservation. The motion was seconded by West. The motion passed 26 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.

A motion was made by LNA Member Bader that LNA pay for the services of Lents Youth Initiative, a project of ROSE CDC, to videograph the Town Hall. This compensation for videography will be for raw, unedited footage of the Town Hall and subject to a contract providing that the film becomes the property of LNA. The motion was seconded by LNA Member David Potts. The motion passed 13 in favor; 9 opposed; 6 abstentions.

Lents Founders Day Street Fair; Bylaws Revision (Dennis).

(a) **Lents Founders Day Street Fair.** Dennis is the Board liaison to the Lents Founders Day Street Fair; LNA member Robert Schultz is the Committee Chairperson. The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 6, in partnership with Oregon Walkways and Green Lents. Oregon Walkways, which is a project of PBOT, is assuming most of the financial cost of the Street Fair. The Lents Founders Day Street Fair will start at 11:00 a.m. The Oregon Walkways and Green Lents portion of the event will end around 4:00 p.m. LNA's contribution to the partnership will be staged at Lents Park and will include performances, food and drink, the chicken beauty contest and more. More planning meetings are scheduled to be held, but details should be finalized fairly soon. Vendors can sign up either at the Lents Street Fair Facebook page or through Oregon Walkways. There is a \$50 vendor fee, with a reduced vendor fee of \$35 for nonprofits. Schultz also indicated that he is organizing a template of the forms and steps necessary for the Street Fair to occur, together with a timeline. He will be submitting the template to EPNO for the LNA records, so that the Street Fair organizer does not need to reinvent the wheel every year. Hites was requested to exhibit the Lents historical display.

(b) **Bylaws Revision.** Dennis, who is the Chairperson of the Bylaws Revision Committee and its Board liaison, indicated that the next meeting of the Committee will be Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Zhaus. The Committee is going through the Bylaws article-by-article and comparing our Bylaws with the ONI template. It is hoped that the Bylaws will be revised by June.

Announcement of Vacant Board Seats for Transportation Chairperson and Public Safety Chairperson (Dennis). At-Large Board Member Dennis announced that there are currently two vacant Board positions, both of which, according to LNA Bylaws, are required positions. Nick Schillaci-Kayton resigned as Transportation Chairperson. The Transportation Chairperson position is up for election in September, so whomever is appointed to that position will have to run for election in September if they choose to continue in that seat. Currently, Land Use Chairperson Potter and At-Large Board Member Young are sharing the Transportation Chairperson duties. The Public Safety Chairperson's term will run till September 2018. People interested in either of these two positions should please contact Dennis. Appointments will be considered at the next Board Meeting, Thursday, April 13.

Consideration of New Venue for General and Board Meetings (Dennis). Dennis reminded that, for some members of our community (eg., Somali Muslims), holding a meeting in a church will prevent them from participating. (Although the Lents Activity Center is not in the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church, it is attached to the building where the Church is located.) The Community Room as the Bowling Alley also might not be a suitable option for some community members. Dennis will be looking for new venues.

Holgate Library Presentation (Oglesbee). Head Librarian of the Holgate Library Oglesbee distributed the Events calendar for the Holgate Library, which includes Renters Rights Workshop, a workshop on making lavender lip balm and lotion and a class on making pho. She also introduced the book of the month, Founding Mothers: The Women Behind the American Revolution. Oglesbee was thanked for coming to LNA General Meetings and keeping LNA informed of the events and activities going on at the Library.

Meeting adjourned. A motion to adjourn was made by Low, seconded by Young and unanimously voted upon. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes submitted by Joanne Rees (Luchini) on April 23, 2017.
Minutes approved on Tuesday, April 25, 2017

